

I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to Abe's family, including his wife Sonya and daughter Abigail, his parents, sister and their broader family. I also extend my sympathies to his colleagues in the labor community, most especially those he worked with in the Boilermakers, President Newton Jones, Bridget Martin, among others.

Along with my staff, I worked with Abe to move important issues forward, including strengthening our Buy American laws, protecting the rights of workers, and revitalizing American manufacturing. As I continue to engage in these issues, Abe's memory will remain in my mind. His compassion, commitment, and dedication to these and other causes should motivate us all, and he will not be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO KENDALL REED

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Kendall Reed, dean of Des Moines University's college of osteopathic medicine, for receiving the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's State Chairman Award.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's State Chairman Award is presented to employers who have extraordinarily exceeded legal requirements for providing support to service members in the Guard and Reserve. Dr. Reed received the reward for the outstanding care and support of employee Joe Case, a staff sergeant with the U.S. Army Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Dr. Reed and I know that my colleagues join me in commending him for his sincere dedication to our troops' well-being and wish him continued success in the future.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF DALE SMITH, AFTER 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE NORWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize Deputy Police Chief Dale Smith of Norwich, NY. Police Chief Smith has recently retired after 20 years of dedicated service in the Norwich City Police Department.

Deputy Police Chief Smith began his career in law enforcement as a Chenango County Sheriff's Correctional Officer as well as a part-time road patrol deputy. He was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief in March of 2006 and has since then taken on a variety of key responsibilities. Deputy Police Chief Smith has not only served and protected his neighbors and his community, but has also been recognized for the wide variety of duties he has supervised, as well as his certification as a fire investigator.

Law enforcement leaders such as Deputy Police Chief Smith must be recognized for the

true bravery and selflessness that they display on the job every day. Deputy Police Chief Smith is yet another example of this, an honorable American, who has dedicated 20 years of his life to the improvement and safety of his community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in honoring Deputy Police Chief Dale Smith for his 20 years of serving the Norwich community and Police Department with honor and professionalism.

CONGRATULATING WALLY MIURA OF HONOLULU, HAWAII ON 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, many of us come to the floor to talk about how important small businesses are to job creation. It's true. In Hawaii, 98 percent of our businesses are considered small businesses; these small businesses provide two out of every three new jobs. The men and women who take the risk of starting a business create jobs for our neighbors while providing the goods and services vital to our quality of life. Today, I want to take a minute to recognize an important anniversary for one of the many unsung heroes of Hawaii's business community.

This month, Wally Miura celebrates 50 years in business. In 1961, he opened a flooring business, Wally's Flooring, in Kalihi. After 37 successful years, Wally decided it was time to retire so he sold his building on Hau Street. He took a one year lease on a warehouse in Mapunapuna to store his inventory. That was in 1998.

Retirement never really took hold. Wally turned his storage space into an office and showroom and is still in business today. He says he's going to retire this year—we'll see. As a former customer, I know he will be missed by the many Hawaii businesses and families that have relied on his excellent service over the years.

Wally is modest, kind, and a very good businessman. In Hawaii, it's not just about who provides the lowest price. You want to work with someone who is proud of his company and stands behind his product and his work. That's Wally. I don't know how many jobs Wally has created over the past 50 years, how many young employees he mentored, or families he helped support with his business, but I am sure that he has had a positive effect on many, many lives.

In addition to being an exemplary businessman, Wally has been a leader in the building industry. He has been involved in many building associations and has served as president of the Honolulu Neighborhood Housing Service. Wally has also served on the advisory board to Ho'opono, Services for the Blind Branch, Hawaii Vocational Rehabilitation Division.

Mahalo nui loa, Wally. You are a great example of the small business owners whose vision, willingness to take a risk, and hard work are so essential to our economy and way of life.

A TRIBUTE TO KAITLIN HARTMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Kaitlin Hartman, a student at Ballard High School in Huxley, Iowa. Kaitlin was recently selected by the company Prudential to receive the Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program was created in 1995 by Prudential and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Its goal is to honor students in middle and high schools across the nations who have dedicated themselves to voluntarily serving others in their community, in their state, and in their nation. Today this awards program is the largest such program in the United States. Since the program's inception, over 280,000 students have participated, with over 90,000 being officially recognized for their work.

Kaitlin has certainly done her part to earn this award. In her years at Ballard High School, she has spent almost 1,000 hours volunteering. Kaitlin has volunteered as a sports manager, peer helper, tutor, mentor, and conflict manager. She has also assisted with the Special Olympics and is active in her church. Kaitlin wishes to continue this service by one day becoming a teacher—dedicating her professional career to serving students and helping them to become all they can be.

Voluntary service to others in our communities, states, and country is an admirable way for all Americans to assist one another. I commend Kaitlin for her endless commitment to that voluntary service. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating Kaitlin in being selected to receive this award. It is an honor to serve as her representative, and I wish her luck in her future studies at the University of Northern Iowa.

RECOGNIZING THE ZIMMER RADIO GROUP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The Zimmer Radio Group for their stunning public service during the devastating tornados in Joplin.

As the tornados began their devastating assault on Joplin, and people began to seek refuge for their lives, employees from the Zimmer Radio Group based in the southwest Missouri city continued their coverage of the powerful storm. After the tornados had subsided, many local citizens were left with destroyed homes, broken memories, or worse, lost loved ones. Many citizens had no way of knowing if their families were safe due to most communication possibilities being destroyed by the tornados.

The staff of Zimmer Radio Group stepped in and immediately began contributing to the efforts of relief. They connected victims over their radio broadcasts by providing an outlet for people to locate their loved ones, and to

provide guidance on where they can seek shelter and food. It is times like these that we all need to rally around our fellow Missourians. The Zimmer Radio Group has led the way by setting a premier example of what disaster relief really means. In the wake of such a tremendous disaster, Zimmer has stepped up to the challenge and continued to help people in need of finding relief.

As fellow citizens we are all called to help one another in times of need. We take for granted the things we have, until we have lost them. Things like food, water, and shelter have become such a routine part of life, that when they are stolen from us, we are at the mercy of our fellow man. I urge all of us to lend a hand and assist those who have been affected by this tragedy.

As a friend, American, and Missourian, my thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Joplin and the state of Missouri who have fallen victim to such powerful forces of nature that have swept across our great state. I encourage those who are able, to assist people who have lost their homes, and I pray that those who have lost loved ones find comfort and relief in the days and weeks to come.

A TRIBUTE TO NATHAN HIDAJAT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nathan Hidajat. Nathan, a second grader from Ames, Iowa, was recently selected as one of 40 regional finalists out of 107,000 entries submitted to Google's nationwide "Doodle 4 Google" competition.

The competition's theme, "What I'd like to do someday . . .", challenged all 107,000 entries to uniquely describe how they will spend their days in the future. However, Nathan's humbling idea for Google focuses on helping others around the world. Nathan's dream: To raise money for clean water in developing nations.

After viewing a video from a non-profit charity earlier in the year about the lasting effects of contaminated water around the world, Nathan organized a drive to help raise money to assist the efforts. Shortly after, Nathan heard about the "Doodle 4 Google" competition and saw this as a way to further expand his efforts by drawing a picture depicting a story about clean water in the world intertwined with the famous Google logo.

All 40 finalists have now been invited to New York City, where the national winner will be announced. The champion will win a \$15,000 college scholarship and a \$25,000 technology grant for his or her school.

I wish to commend Nathan on his artistic talents and desire to make the world a better place for those who are the most vulnerable. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating Nathan in being chosen as a top 40 finalist in this competition. It is an honor to have Nathan in my district, and I wish him the best of luck as the competition moves forward.

INTRODUCING THE "TAX PARITY FOR HEALTH PLAN BENEFICIARIES ACT"

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, one of the fundamental principles of our tax system is that similar taxpayers are taxed the same. Confidence in our tax system depends on the fair and equitable treatment of our citizens and businesses.

Today, I am re-introducing the "Tax Parity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act"—a bill that will correct a disparity in the tax code that results in unfair taxes on American businesses and their employees.

More than 80 percent of America's most successful companies extend health plan benefits to the domestic partners or non-spouse dependents of their employees. These companies are, in increasing numbers, making the right business decision to make their health plans more inclusive of the diversity in their employees. American businesses understand that by providing their employees with health security on an equitable basis helps them attract and retain the best people, and in doing so, have surpassed the government in the pursuit of equality.

Unfortunately, being ahead comes at a cost. On average, a worker who receives these extended benefits pays \$2,000 more in federal taxes than their married co-workers. Also, businesses must pay additional payroll taxes for deciding to provide their employees with equal benefits.

In the past, the federal government has led America when it comes to equal treatment under the law. On this issue, the federal government has fallen behind. We owe it to the American people to fix the tax code, so that the American people and their businesses can be sure that their government is still committed to ensuring equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be introducing this bill with colleagues from both sides of the aisle. This highlights the importance of correcting this wrong in existing tax law.

A TRIBUTE TO JACOB HEATWOLE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jacob Franklyn Heatwole for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Jacob's project was to assist in rebuilding a retaining wall at the Emergency Food Box in his hometown of Marshalltown.

Jacob has proudly represented Troop 310 of Marshalltown for more than five years. To date Jacob has earned nearly 30 Merit Badges as well as attended the 2010 National Scout Jamboree.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Jacob and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 372, I was absent due to unforeseen circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 372 was a vote on the Cravaack of Minnesota Amendment No. 152 to H.R. 1540, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. This amendment will completely eliminate the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). While I believe spending cuts within our defense budget are necessary, I also believe that those cuts must be smart and targeted.

The United States Institute of Peace—created by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan—is the only independent U.S. government actor that is dedicated solely to conflict prevention and resolution. USIP produces timely expert analysis on issues critical to policymakers and conflict prevention practitioners. In early February 2011, USIP published a "PEACE Report" on the political stalemate in Côte d'Ivoire following the November 28, 2010 election and the broader issue of preventing electoral violence in Africa. The elimination of USIP will have strong, adverse impact on America's security interests. USIP is an important national security actor. The U.S. government must have options for resolving international conflict other than military action.

USIP is the critical bridge between governmental and non-governmental actors to promote peace in volatile conflicts. USIP's Center for Mediation and Conflict Resolution conducts work in a number of critical conflict zones in Africa, Middle East, and across the globe. In the Arab-Israeli conflict, USIP is addressing a series of challenges and opportunities facing the parties. USIP has been focusing on the capacity of the Israeli and Palestinian publics to build consensus and support for a negotiated agreement, and the role of U.S. policymakers in encouraging and supporting these efforts toward a peaceful resolution.

USIP is also dealing with several issues in Nigeria, a country rife with conflicts over petroleum resources and religion. Amidst this situation, USIP is working on peace efforts for the Niger Delta region, including working collaboratively with local governments, oil companies, and Nigerian NGOs.

For nearly two decades, the USIP has been working in Sudan on peace processes. Its knowledge and expertise has helped shape